

REMARKS

This paper and the accompanying Request for Continued Examination (RCE) are submitted in response to the Office action dated May 5, 2009 (the “Final Office Action”).

Claims 1-36 and 40-41 are pending in the application, including new claims 40-41.

Claims 1, 9, 16, 23, and 30 have been amended in this paper.

Claims 1-36 stand rejected.

The amendments add no new matter. Support for the amendments may be found throughout Applicant’s Specification and Drawings as originally filed, for example in the Abstract and in ¶¶ 9-10, 36, 38, 45, and 74, among others. The amendments to the claims have been made to expedite prosecution. While not conceding that the cited reference(s) qualify as prior art, Applicant has chosen to respond as follows. Applicant reserves the right to establish that the cited reference(s), or other references cited thus far or hereafter, do not qualify as prior art as to an invention embodiment previously, currently, or subsequently claimed. Applicant also reserves the right, for example in a continuing application, to pursue the previously pending claims or claims similar thereto. Applicant respectfully submits that the pending claims are allowable in view of the following remarks and the above amendments, and respectfully requests reconsideration of the pending rejections.

Rejection of Claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1-36 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as purportedly being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,587,126 issued to Wakai, et al. (“**Wakai**”) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,421,733 issued to Tso, et al. (“**Tso**”) and U.S. Patent No. 7,167,919 issued to Iwamoto, et al. (“**Iwamoto**”).

In order to further prosecution, Applicant has amended independent claims 1, 9, 16, and 23. For example, amended claim 1 recites selecting a first device of a plurality of devices to provide the requested service, and converting the request to a second request that conforms to a request format defined in a second language. Each of the plurality of devices is configured to provide a corresponding service, and **at least one of the plurality of devices is configured to receive requests only in a format that is incompatible with the request format defined in the second language.** At least these limitations are absent from the cited passages of Wakai, Tso, and Iwamoto, whether taken individually or in combination.

In view of these shortcomings, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claim 1 and all claims dependent therefrom are allowable under § 103(a). At least for similar reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that amended independent claims 9, 16, and 23 and all claims dependent therefrom are also allowable under § 103(a).

New Claims

New claims 40-41 depend on independent claim 1, and are therefore allowable at least for the reasons discussed above, as claims dependent on an allowable base claim.

CONCLUSION

In view of the amendments and remarks set forth herein, the application and the claims therein are believed to be in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is solicited. Nonetheless, should any issues remain that might be subject to resolution through a telephonic interview, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at 512-439-5097.

If any extensions of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) are required in order for this submission to be considered timely, Applicant hereby petitions for such extensions. The undersigned hereby authorizes that any fees due for such extensions or any other fee associated with this submission, as specified in 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17, be charged to deposit account no. 502306.

Respectfully submitted,

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